

Dr. M. C. Cooke's paper to which reference is made. It would indicate that comparisons as to the relative merits of various phases of botanical work are not all of recent utterance. Gilbert White, in *The Natural History of Selborne*, in letter XL to the Honourable Daines Barrington, dated June 2, 1778, made passing comment in these words: "The standing objection to botany has always been, that it is a pursuit that amuses the fancy and exercises the memory, without improving the mind or advancing any real knowledge; and where the science is carried no further than a mere systematic classification, the charge is but too true. But the botanist that is desirous of wiping off this aspersion should be by no means content with a list of names; he should study plants philosophically, should investigate the laws of vegetation, should examine the powers and virtues of efficacious herbs, should promote their cultivation; and graft the gardener, the planter, and the husbandman, on the phytologist. Not that system is by any means to be thrown aside; without system the field of nature would be a pathless wilderness; but system should be subservient to, not the main object of, pursuit."

WILBUR L. KING

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

NOVEMBER 12, 1912

The meeting of November 12, 1912, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Burgess presided. Twenty persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting of October 30 were read and approved.

The announced scientific program consisted of an illustrated lecture by Mr. J. J. Levison on "Tree Problems of Our City."

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary*

NOVEMBER 27, 1912

The meeting of November 27, 1912, was held in the laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. Vice-president Barnhart presided. Ten persons were present.

The minutes of November 12 were read and approved. As there was no business to be transacted the scientific program was taken up. The first number consisted of a paper by Dr. W. A. Merrill on "The Polypores of the Adirondacks." This paper has been published in full in the *Journal of the New York Botanical Garden*, 13: 174-178. N 1912.

The second number was given by Dr. A. B. Stout. The subject of his discussion was "The Distribution of Tissues in the Root Tip of *Carex aquatilis*." Several photomicrographs of sections of root tips were exhibited, and drawings were made to illustrate particular features in the arrangement of the tissues.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary*

DECEMBER 10, 1912

The meeting of December 10, 1912, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Burgess presided. Twenty-two persons were present.

The minutes of November 27 were read and approved.

On the motion of Dr. Southwick the treasurer was authorized to draw an order for the sum of twenty dollars in favor of Dr. William Mansfield to cover the dues as the representative of the club to the council of the New York Academy of Sciences.

The paper of the evening was on "Diatoms," by Dr. Marshall A. Howe. It was a semi-popular account of the principal structural and morphological features of diatoms, their distribution and habitat, their geological interest and importance, the various economic uses of diatomaceous earths, etc. The talk was illustrated by about seventy-five lantern slides from the collection of the late Charles F. Cox. Many of the photographs shown were made under high powers of magnification and they brought out with much distinctness the secondary markings and other minute structural details of the walls of various types of diatoms.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary*